

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

In the "Brief Description of the Drawings," please amend page 8, lines 7 through 10, as follows:

~~Figure 5 is~~ Figures 5A and 5B show a flow chart of steps for retrieving a document in accordance with the subject invention; and

~~Figure 6 is~~ Figures 6A and 6B show a flow chart of an alternate set of steps for retrieving a document in accordance with the subject invention.

In the "Detailed Description," please amend the paragraphs beginning on page 10, line 17 through page 13, line 17, as follows:

Referring now to FIGs. 5A and 5B ~~FIG. 5~~, there is shown exemplary steps of XML processor program 232 for implementing the method for processing and routing XML documents in system 10 in accordance with an implementation of the present invention. Note that in this description, in order to facilitate explanation, the XML proxy server 200 is generally discussed as if it were a single device, and functions provided by the XML proxy server 200 are generally discussed as being performed by such single device. However, XML proxy server 200 may actually comprise multiple physical and logical devices connected in a distributed architecture, and the various functions discussed below which are provided by XML proxy server 200 may actually be distributed among multiple server devices. As shown in FIG. ~~[[5]]~~ 5A, a user action in the form of a uniform resource locator (URL) is received at step 405. The XML proxy

server 200 decodes the received URL and then ascertains whether the document is an XML document (step 410). For a web page this can be done by examining the URL for a reference to "XML". For a mail message this can be done by examining the multipurpose Internet mail extension (MIME) for a reference to "XML". MIME refers to an official Internet standard that specifies how messages must be formatted so that they can be exchanged between different email systems. "Text/xml" and "application/xml" are two media types that enable the exchange of XML documents with various email systems. If XML proxy server 200 determines that the document is an XML document, processing flows to step 415, otherwise processing flows to step 455 (as shown in FIG. 5B). In step 415, XML proxy server 200 determines whether the document has been previously retrieved by the same or a different client computer 100 (i.e., is the document cached?) If the document is cached, processing flows to step 430 and the XML document is retrieved from the local cache 215 of XML proxy server 200. Processing then flows to step 455 of FIG. 5B and the proxy server 200 routes the document to the client device 100.

If the document has not been cached, proxy server 200 routes the request to the appropriate remote server 300 (step 420). Processing then flows to step 425 where the remote server 300 identifies the requested document, and routes it to XML proxy server 200. Processing flows from step 425 to step 435 of FIG. 5B where XML proxy server 200 locates and retrieves the document's stylesheet. Next, as shown on FIG. 5B, XML proxy server 200 retrieves client computer's 100 stylesheet in step 440. Processing then flows to step 445 where XML proxy server 200 applies any stylesheets to the

document. Next, in step 450, XML proxy server 200 stores the processed document in local cache 215. In step 455 the document is routed to client device 100.

Thus, in connection with one embodiment, it should be appreciated from the schematic overview illustrated by FIG. 1 and the detailed schematics of FIGs. 2-4 that our invention may be employed in a distributed computer system environment which has internal, external and intranet networks collectively represented in our schematic overview by the network 20 to connect clients to World Wide Web servers and other servers within the system in which our invention is situated. The client computer 100 makes a request to the network 20 for a access to a Web site located anywhere on the entire network. The proxy server 200 with the facilities acts as an agent to review the data gathered from one or more of the multiple remote servers 300 coupled to the network 20 and convert it, if necessary into a format acceptable to the requesting client 100. Further details with respect to the use of our invention for information retrieval from the multiple remote servers 300 are provided with reference to FIGs. 6A and 6B ~~FIG. 6~~.

~~FIG. 6~~ FIGs. 6A and 6B shows a flowchart of an alternate implementation of the process used by proxy server 200 for processing requests for XML documents. In this implementation the XML proxy server 200 does not receive document requests from client computers 100. Instead, XML proxy server 200 simply monitors document flow to client computer 100 to determine whether a document is an XML document and then either routes a previously stored document to the client computer 100 or performs processing on the unprocessed XML document before routing it to the client computer 100. As shown in step 505 of FIG. 5A, the process begins when a user transmits a

request for a document directly to the appropriate remote server 300. In step 510, proxy server 200 receives the document from the remote server 300, and in step 520, XML proxy server 200 ascertains whether the document is an XML document. As in the case of the preferred embodiment, XML proxy server 200 performs this step by examining the URL. If XML proxy server 200 determines that the document is an XML document, processing flows to step 525, otherwise processing flows to step 555 (shown in FIG. 5B). In step 525, XML proxy server 200 determines whether the document has been cached. If the document is cached, processing flows to step 530 and the XML document is retrieved from the local cache 215 of XML proxy server 200 and processing then flows to step 555. If the document has not been cached, processing flows from step 525 to step 535 where XML proxy server 200 locates and retrieves the document's stylesheet. Next, turning to FIG. 5B, XML proxy server 200 retrieves client computer's 100 stylesheet in step 540. Processing then flows to step 545 where XML proxy server 200 applies one or both stylesheets to the document. Next, in step 550, XML proxy server 200 stores the processed document in local cache 215. In step 555 the document is routed to client computer 100, and in step 560, processing completes.